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AGREEMENT CONCERNING
MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE BUREAU OF HARBOUR SUPERINTENDENCY OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Bureau of Harbour Superintendence of the People's Republic of China and the United States Coast Guard of the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as "The Parties") have agreed as follows in order to:

Ensure the safety of human life and property at sea,
Facilitate search and rescue (SAR) operation at sea,
Develop better communications and understanding between the Parties,
Resolve common problems in SAR operations, and
Enhance SAR capabilities.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

A. The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth guidelines for cooperation between the Parties in coordinating the response to distress cases involving safety of life or property at sea by the SAR authorities of the People's Republic of China and the United States of America.

B.1. All activities pursuant to this Agreement shall be conducted by the Parties in accordance with the requirements of the relevant laws, rules, and regulations of their respective countries.

B.2. All activities conducted by the Parties in accordance with this Agreement shall not be contrary to relevant international conventions ratified respectively by the Parties or international SAR plan submitted to the International Maritime Organization.

C. The joint SAR operations pursuant to the Agreement shall only be conducted outside of the territorial waters of the People's Republic of China.

D. When appropriate and agreed between the two Parties, third parties may participate in cooperative maritime SAR activities conducted by the Parties.

ARTICLE II

SCOPE AND METHOD OF COOPERATION

The scope and method of cooperation under this Agreement shall include:

A. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Parties shall exchange available information which can contribute to increased effectiveness of maritime SAR activities, including:

1. National SAR agency organization,
2. Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs), locations, areas of responsibility, TELEX numbers, telephone numbers, and other communication methods,
3. SAR procedures and contingency plans as available, and
4. Rescue unit and SAR equipment identification and capabilities.

B. SAR OPERATIONS

To facilitate cooperation in maritime SAR, the Parties will endeavor to:

1. Develop, establish and whenever practical, use common SAR procedures, including procedures for requesting and rendering SAR assistance,
2. When necessary, in order to effectively respond to distress cases at sea, coordinate involved resources of the Parties to carry out cooperative SAR operations and establish working procedures for cooperative SAR operations,
3. Whenever possible, inform each other of SAR operations of mutual interest,
4. Establish appropriate and reliable lines of communication between the Parties to be used in joint SAR communication between the Parties to be used in Joint SAR operations, and provide for communication tests as agreed by the Parties, and
5. Conduct or support regional SAR discussions as necessary to maintain effective international coordination of maritime SAR services.

C. SAR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

To enhance maritime SAR capabilities, the Parties shall, as appropriate, cooperate in technical areas pertaining to:

1. Equipment for SAR at sea,
2. Communications equipment and methods of communication used in SAR operations, and
3. Training of SAR Personnel.

D. ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATION

To help satisfy the intent of this Agreement an ongoing cooperative relationship will be maintained between the Parties. Meetings may occur periodically or as needed and should include:

1. Designation of officials to contact for matters relating to this agreement,
2. Visit between SAR personnel of the Parties, and
3. Cooperation, as appropriate, on international SAR projects of common interest such as those sponsored by the International Maritime Organization.

E. Other cooperative methods as agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE III

IMPLEMENTATION

Specific information and procedures regarding implementation of this Agreement and specific contents and methods of cooperation will be jointly provided and developed by the SAR management personnel of the Parties, and will be set forth as annexes to this Agreement. The financing of cooperative activities shall be provided as agreed by the Parties. Furthermore, the provisions of this Agreement are contingent upon the availability of SAR personnel, facilities, and funding. When such action may be required or appropriate to ensure safety of life or property at sea, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent either Party from initiating SAR operations or from assuming coordination of a particular SAR operation, subject to applicable national laws, rules and regulations of either of the Parties, provisions of relevant international conventions and principles of international law.

ARTICLE IV

ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND AMENDMENT

A. This Agreement shall enter into force upon the date of signature by both Parties. It may be modified by mutual written agreement between the Parties.

B. This Agreement may be terminated at any time at the discretion of either Party, upon six months advance written notification to the other by the Party seeking the termination.

C. Unless otherwise agreed, the termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of the specific activities undertaken hereunder, and not yet completed at the time of termination. Done in duplicate in Washington, D.C. on Twentieth day of January, 1987 in the English and Chinese languages, the two texts being equally authentic.

Paul A. Yost Jr.

Admiral Paul A. Yost, Jr.
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
United States of America

Mr. Shen Zhicheng
Director
Bureau of Harbour Superintendency
People's Republic of China

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